



## PROFILE

**Country Current** is the Navy's premier country music group. The seven-member group was formed in 1973 and quickly established itself in all aspects of country and bluegrass music. The group, under the direction of guitarist and vocalist **Senior Chief Musician Wayne C. Taylor**, is a specialty unit of The United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C.

Touring the country each year in support of Navy Recruiting, they have also performed with such artists as Charlie Daniels, Vince Gill, and Boots Randolph. Country Current performed at the "Branson Cares-Help Start the Healing" tribute to the citizens of Oklahoma City at the Glen Campbell Goodtime Theatre in Branson, Mo., on Memorial Day 1995. Other credits throughout their 29-year history include the Grand Ole Opry, Wheeling Jamboree and the Academy of Country Music Awards show.

In March 2000 the group was featured at the Mississippi Country-Bluegrass Spectacular in Columbia, Miss. In February 1999 the group performed with country music singer David Ball as part of The Pentagon Pops Musical Salute to America's "Guardians of Freedom" at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. In July 1998 the group performed for over 100,000 people at the Fort Vancouver 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular in Ft. Vancouver, Wash. In June 1994 they appeared at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo, and in September 1992 at the Swedish Army Tattoo in Stockholm. In February 1989 they entertained Chinese officials in Beijing at a dinner hosted by former President and Mrs. George Bush.

In 1996 Country Current released a compact disc entitled, *Sugarland Run*, featuring 18 country and bluegrass standards and originals. The CD received a rave review in the September 1997 issue of *Bluegrass Now Magazine*. The group's latest CD entitled, *Havin' A Ball*, was released in the spring of 1999. The group also received national acclaim during Operation Desert Storm for an original composition entitled *We Are With You*, which aired on ABC's "Good Morning America," TNN's "Nashville Now," and over 500 U.S. and Canadian radio and television stations. Country Current appeared on CBS's "This Morning" in July 1994, and was featured for four consecutive years on the Department of the Interior's "Salute to America" Independence Day Radio Program airing on over 1,600 stations nationwide.

The group also features an acoustic bluegrass quartet that was featured in 2002 at the Folk Festival in Anchorage, Alaska and in 2001 at the Mississippi Bluegrass Reunion in Purvis, Miss. In 2000 they were featured at the Withlacoochee River Bluegrass Jamboree (Dunnellon, Fla.) and the 20th Annual Music in the Mountains Festival (Summerville, W.Va.). They were also featured at the 1999 Kissimmee Bluegrass (Fla.) and Winterhawk Bluegrass (Hillsdale, N.Y.) Festivals. The bluegrass quartet performed at the 2000 and 1997 International Bluegrass Music Association's "Awards Show" and "FanFest" in Louisville, Ky., and in 1994 they performed at the IBMA's "Showcase" in Owensboro, Ky. In 1995 the quartet performed with bluegrass legend Bill Monroe in Rosine, Ky. Other festival appearances include "Wintergrass" (Tacoma, Wash.), "Festival of the Bluegrass" (Lexington, Ky.) and "Cherokee" (Cherokee, N.C.).

Constantly in demand as part of the Navy Band's "Music in the Schools" program, they offer a variety of concerts and demonstrations that complement music curricula in area schools.